

BCSPCA THE PAWPRINT

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Shuswap Branch

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Happy Tails

In early July, our centre welcomed three Golden Retrievers through our Animal Protection Team — Malone (9 years), Ducati (6 years), and Starfire (2 years).

Before coming to us, these dogs had endured a very difficult life. Their worlds were very small, as they had been living in crates too short for them to fully stand up in. They arrived in our care with urine scalding, matted coats, and poor body condition scores. They also displayed signs of stress such as pacing and circling. Adjusting to the shelter was a big change for them.

Our team quickly began addressing their medical and emotional needs. Malone was treated for an ear infection, while Ducati required dental extractions for fractured teeth. All three also tested positive for giardia, which was treated promptly.

Over the following weeks, staff and volunteers worked patiently to help them gain confidence. Despite their past, each one showed a gentle and loving nature that captured everyone's hearts.

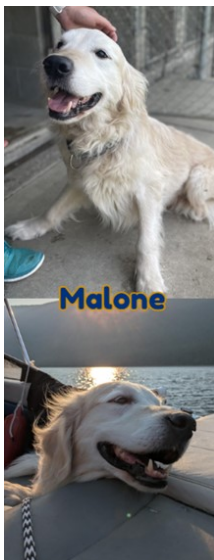
By the end of August, all three dogs had been adopted into wonderful forever homes. Here are the updates we've received:

"Malone is really progressing in leaps and bounds!! He is a whole new dog loving car rides, the dog park, playing in the lake and most recently boat rides. We are beyond in love and so grateful you guys chose us to be his family"

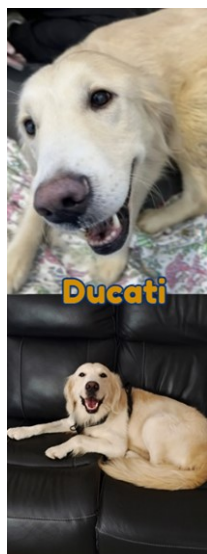
"We have had Ducati on several walks over the past few days. He met 2 young boys, around 10, that were eager to meet him. He went over to them then laid down and let them pet him. Although they were very excited, he just laid there like the gentle dog that he is. Things are definitely looking up for Ducati. Thank you so much for everything you have done for him and us."

"Starfire, now named Rio, was born to be a water dog. She loves playing and diving in lakes, rivers, puddles, sprinklers and even water bowls. She's been on a ton of adventures to find places to swim. Stuffed squeaky toys, car rides and long hikes also rate pretty high on her list of favorite things. Her new family thinks she's fabulous and the perfect addition to the house!! So many things to be thankful for...."

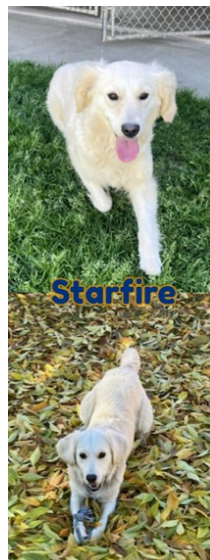
Katie Dodd



Malone



Ducati



Starfire

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Shuswap Branch Shelter Update

Since our last PawPrint update in April, we've moved through spring, summer, and into fall. Life in a shelter moves fast. Every day is filled with challenges and little victories. It's nearly impossible to capture it all, but here are some of the moments that stand out to us over the past several months.

The unusually high number of dogs coming through our doors in recent years has continued over the past few months. Many have arrived from breeders who became overwhelmed or couldn't sell their animals, and, surprisingly, a few have even come from other rescues unable to provide proper care.

One memorable case came in June, when our Animal Protection team brought in six husky puppies from a breeder. These pups were eight months old but were the size and weight of typical eight-week-old huskies. Another group included six adult and senior dogs from a rescue in B.C., where well-meaning individuals had unfortunately gotten in over their heads. They were no longer helping these animals, but causing suffering. These are just two examples of many, and a reminder that our work in education and advocacy is far from over.

Back in May, the SPCA seized 15 starving dogs from a breeder in Clearwater. It was a devastating case of neglect and cruelty. In June, the sentencing for the breeder was released, and we were disappointed by the leniency of the sentence given the severity of the cruelty involved.

If nothing else, let me remind you of this: you are not powerless. There are many ways you can make a difference:

- Contact your elected officials – Let them know you support stronger animal protection laws and tougher penalties for abusers.
- Support BC SPCA advocacy campaigns – Sign up for action alerts to stay informed and get involved.
- Raise awareness – Share information about existing gaps in animal protection laws. Many people don't even realize these gaps exist.
- Report cruelty – If you see something, say something. Call the BC SPCA Animal Helpline at **1-855-622-7722** if you suspect neglect or abuse.

Real change takes all of us. Keep speaking up for those who can't.

Since April, we've found loving homes for 209 animals, including a record-breaking September with 28 dogs and 19 cats adopted, our highest monthly adoption numbers to date!

Puppy and kitten season hasn't slowed down as it traditionally does in fall and winter. Right now, as I write this, we have 52 kittens in care, with more arriving daily. It's busy, but every adoption is a reason to celebrate.

The **City of Salmon Arm** is currently in the process of rewriting its bylaws, including updates to the **Animal Control Bylaw** following the decision to bring the service in-house. Notably:

- Dogs can no longer be tethered for more than four hours in a 24-hour period.
- Animals cannot be confined in vehicles where they're at risk from extreme heat or cold.

We're thrilled to see these critical, life-saving changes and commend the City for their efforts to make a difference.

Many of you will remember the record-breaking windstorm that hit in May. Like many in our community, we didn't escape unscathed. Several trees came down on our property, weakening others, so most had to be removed for safety. Thankfully, damage was limited to a single fence, and all dogs were safely brought indoors as soon as the wind started howling.

Next spring and summer, we'll be looking for creative ways to restore shade to the dog yards, so keep your eyes peeled for opportunities to help if any large shed-like structures happen to come your way!

In late August, we said a bittersweet goodbye to **Sage**, who joined us two years ago and has been an important part of our team. She's now pursuing her calling in the Recreation Fish and Wildlife program. We're so proud of her for taking this next step and grateful for the dedication and care she brought to the shelter. Thank you, Sage, you'll always be part of our SPCA family.

We also gave our signage a much-needed refresh, thanks to our amazing bottle-recycling volunteer **Carol** and the team at **High Impact Signs & Designs**. A new recycling centre sign now clearly indicates it's for refundables only (a game-changer after months of confusion), and our weathered welcome signs have been replaced with fresh, bright new ones.

We recently formed a **Community Outreach and Fundraising Committee**, and they're already making waves. Their creativity shone in the fall parade, even more impressive than last year's, earning us another prize! This team is focused on strengthening our ties within the community, and we're excited to see how their ideas grow in the months ahead.

The shelter is always busy, ever changing, and full of both challenges and triumphs. Every day, animals come in needing care, and every day, animals leave to begin their new lives. None of this would be possible without our staff, volunteers, supporters, and community partners.

As always, thank you for standing behind our work. We'll be back with more updates soon.

Cheers, Meranda Dussault
Shuswap SPCA Centre Manager



Volunteer Recognition

We want to take a moment to recognize two incredible volunteers who have been with us for **20 years: Jan and Anthony**.

Over the past two decades, they've contributed in many different areas of the shelter, but in recent years they've been our dedicated bottle-sorting volunteers.

Let's make no mistake, this is not a glamorous job. When Jan and Anthony first started sorting, all we had were tarps and a seacan. By the time they finished, we had a fully functioning bottle-sorting centre with heat.

Twenty years is a tremendous amount of time to give to a shelter, and we will be forever grateful their commitment, hard work, and loyalty over the years.

Meranda Dussault



Vulnerable Animals

As part of our Strategic Plan the Society will continue to be a safety net for the most vulnerable animals.

Three Senior employees embarked on the development of a **Vulnerable Animal Spectrum**. It is a system to prioritize and triage animals in need. It provides guidance for all the employees responsible for animal intake. Gathering in all the available information enables staff to determine which are most vulnerable and in need of immediate care and what the most appropriate care would be.

There are limits on the resources available to the SPCA. Other members of the community can help in a variety of ways. **Foster families** play a huge role in providing care when space in the shelter is at capacity. People who find animals that seem to be lost or abandoned might be able to care for them in the short term when the shelter is full. Some people may be able to find the animal's person.

Earlier this year a neighbour phoned to say her dogs had brought home a dog that appeared to have run off during a thunder storm. She found a tattoo in it's ear. The first three characters in the tattoo referred to Shuswap Veterinary Clinic. A phone call on Monday provided contact information for the dog's people and another phone call brought relieved guardians happy to be reunited.

All of us that love the animals can provide help when it is needed.

Janet Pattinson

*Like us on **Facebook** or check out our website **spca.bc.ca** for more information about who we are, what we do in the community and how YOU can help us to grow!*